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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *22 September 2008*.
2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.
3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are pending in the application.
   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6)☒ Claim(s) *1-10* is/are rejected.
7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.
   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
   a)☐ All   b)☐ Some *   c)☐ None of:
      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1.   A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this

application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set

forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action

has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on

09/02/2008 has been entered.

2.   Claims 1-10 are pending.

Response to Arguments

3.   Applicant's arguments filed 09/02/2008 have been fully considered but they are

not persuasive.

(1) argument 1:

        Applicant argues that neither Ouchi and Lam et al. nor Thomson et al. fail

to teach or suggest **"generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality**

of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information"

With respect to Applicant's argument, the Examiner relies upon the teachings of Ouchi and Lam et al. Lam et al. disclose, generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-14; note that a unique IP address gets assigned for each device on the basis of the router i.e. image processing functions**). Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. processing data for printing and other peripheral devices along with multiplex communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in the stated argument.

(2) argument 2:

Applicant argues that neither Ouchi and Lam et al. nor Thomson et al. fail to teach or suggest "**control means for communicating with a processing appliances on the network by use of the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions and operating each of the plurality**

of image processing functions via a common bus, so that the control

means executes communications between each of the plurality of image

processing functions and at least one of the plurality of appliances."

With respect to Applicant's argument, the Examiner relies upon the

teachings of Ouchi, Lam and Thompson. Ouchi discloses a control means for

communicating with a plurality of appliances on the network (**20, 24, figure 1;**

column 3, lines 8-10; note that the control unit 20 controls the operation of

the overall device and in line 27-28, the network control unit controls the

communication of the devices on the network) and operating each of the

plurality of image processing functions (**column 3, lines 37-47; note that the**

multifunctional processing device has a control unit 20 in figure 1; also,

note that the operation of the printing, scanning and facsimile devices

occur as communication gets established through the modem 23 of figure

1) via a common bus (**7, figure 1; column 3 , lines 25-27; note that a**

transmission interface is connected to an external personal computer via a

connection cable), so that the control means executes communications

between each of the plurality of image processing functions and at least one of

the plurality of appliances (**column 3, lines 49-63; note that the control**

program i.e. part of the control unit executes facsimile function for

controlling transmission and reception of the data and also, executes

copying function).

Ouchi discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching *use of the IP address generated for every image processing function.*

However, Lam teaches *use of the IP addresses generated for every image processing function* **(paragraph [0036], lines 1-9; note that each peripheral devices have a unique IP address).**

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor i.e. processing data for printing and other peripheral devices along with multiplex communication. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for every image processing function. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in the stated argument. Thus, the stated argument is taught by the combination of Ouchi and Lam et al.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

5.   Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over

Ouchi (US Patent Number 5,987,494, see IDS) and Lam et al. (US Publication Number

2003/0142683 A1) and further in view of Thomson et al. (Request for comments 2462

IPv6 Stateless Autoconfiguration", The Internet Engineering Task Force (IETF)(online),

December 1998).

        (1) regarding claim 1:

        As shown in figure 1, Ouchi discloses an image processing apparatus having a

plurality of image processing functions (**1, 3, 4, figure 1; column 3, lines 5-11; note

that multi-function information processing device is considered as the image

processing apparatus with plurality of image processing functions**), comprising:

        control means for communicating with a plurality of appliances on the network

(**20, 23, figure 1**) and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions in

accordance with a result of the communication (**column 3, lines 37-47; note that the

multifunctional processing device has a control unit 20 in figure 1; also, note that

the operation of the printing, scanning and facsimile devices occur as

communication gets established through the modem 23 of figure 1**) via a common

bus (**7, figure 1; column 3 , lines 25-27; note that a transmission interface is

connected to an external personal computer via a connection cable**), so that the

control means executes communications between each of the plurality of image

processing functions and at least one of the plurality of appliances (**column 3, lines 49-63; note that the control program i.e. part of the control unit executes facsimile function for controlling transmission and reception of the data and also, executes copying function**).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching, IP address generating means, connected to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router and generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information and use of the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions.

However, Lam et al. disclose, generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-14; note that a unique IP address gets assigned for each device on the basis of the router**); and by use of the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-9; note that each peripheral devices have a unique IP address**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information and use of the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-

media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN

system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to

combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Ouchi and Lam et al. disclose most of the subject matter as described as above

except for specifically teaching IP address generating means connected to an IPv6

router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router.

However, Thomson et al. disclose IP address generating means connected to an

Ipv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router **(page 2,**

paragraph [0002] of Introduction; note that IPv6 defines an auto configuration

mechanism of routers. Also, the stateless mechanism allows a host to generate

its own address using a combination of locally available information provided by

the routers. In addition to that, page 3 paragraph [0004] states that routes are

expected to successfully pass the duplicate address detection procedure

described in prior to assigning to an interface).

Ouchi, Lam et al. and Thomson et al. are combinable because they are from the

same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a

person of ordinary skilled in the art to have an IP address generating means connected

to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the Ipv6 router. The

suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that IPv6 addresses lease to an

interface for a fixed length of time (page 3, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5) and IPv6

defines both stateful and stateless address autconfiguration mechanism (page 2,

paragraph [0002], lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi,

Lam et al. with Thomson et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

(2) regarding claim 2:

Ouchi further discloses, an image processing apparatus (**column 3, lines 5-11;**

note that multi-function information processing device is considered as the

image processing apparatus with plurality of image processing functions)

according to claim1, wherein the control means executes the plurality of image

processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task switchover

(**column 4, lines 9-15; note that control program has a timer to switchover tasks**

on every 1/60 seconds), control task programs corresponding respectively to the

plurality of image processing functions (**column 4, lines 15-29; note that the control**

program, which is corresponding to a plurality of functions, on the basis of the

timer), and taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to an image

processing function of the plurality of image processing functions (**column 5, lines 27-**

40; note that control programs correspond to the plurality of functions of the

multi-functional processing device).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for

specifically teaching control means performs the communicating using the IP addresses

generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task

program.

However, Lam et al. disclose control means performs the communicating using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task program (**paragraph [0036], lines 3-8; note that central processing unit communicates between each peripheral devises via the IP addresses that is assigned**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have control means performs the communicating using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions based on the control task program. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to easily mange and access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 2.

(3) regarding claim 3:

Ouchi further discloses, a control method of an image processing apparatus having a plurality of image processing functions (**column 3, lines 5-11; note that multi-function information processing device is considered as the image processing apparatus with plurality of image processing functions**), comprising:

a controlling step for communicating with a plurality of appliance on the network (**20, 23, figure 1**) and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions (**column 3, lines 37-47; note that the multifunctional processing device has a**

control unit 20 in figure 1; also, note that the operation of the printing, scanning and facsimile devices occur as communication gets established through the modem 23 of figure 1) via a common bus (**7, figure 1; column 3 , lines 25-27; note that a transmission interface is connected to an external personal computer via a connection cable**), so that the control means executes communications between each of the plurality of image processing functions and at least one of the plurality of appliances (**column 3, lines 49-63; note that the control program i.e. part of the control unit executes facsimile function for controlling transmission and reception of the data and also, executes copying function**).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching, an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router, and generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information and use of the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing functions.

However, Lam et al. disclose, generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-14; note that a unique IP address gets assigned for each device on the basis of the router**); and by use of the IP address generated for the plurality of image processing functions (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-9; note that each peripheral devices have a unique IP address**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for the plurality of image processing function. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Ouchi and Lam et al. disclose most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router.

However, Thomson et al. disclose IP address generating means connected to an Ipv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the IPv6 router (**page 2, paragraph [0002] of Introduction; note that IPv6 defines an auto configuration mechanism of routers. Also, the stateless mechanism allows a host to generate its own address using a combination of locally available information provided by the routers. In addition to that, page 3 paragraph [0004] states that routes are expected to successfully pass the duplicate address detection procedure described in prior to assigning to an interface**).

Ouchi, Lam et al. and Thomson et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a

person of ordinary skilled in the art to have an IP address generating means connected

to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from the Ipv6 router. The

suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that IPv6 addresses lease to an

interface for a fixed length of time (page 3, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5) and IPv6

defines both stateful and stateless address autoconfiguration mechanism (page 2,

paragraph [0002], lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi,

Lam et al. with Thomson et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 3.

(4) regarding claim 4:

Ouchi further discloses, a control method of an image processing apparatus

according to claim 3, wherein the controlling step involves executing the plurality of

image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a task

switchover (**column 4, lines 9-15; note that control program has a timer to**

switchover tasks on every 1/60 seconds), control task programs corresponding

respectively to the plurality of image processing functions (**column 4, lines 15-29; note**

that the control program, which is corresponding to a plurality of functions, on

the basis of the timer), and taking as a unit a control task program corresponding to an

image processing function of the plurality of image processing functions (**column 5,**

lines 27-40; note that control programs correspond to the plurality of functions of

the multi-functional processing device).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for

specifically teaching control means perform the communication using the IP addresses

generated for the plurality of image processing function based on the control task

program.

However, Lam et al. disclose control means perform the communication using

the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing function based on the

control task program (**paragraph [0036], lines 3-8; note that central processing unit**

communicates between each peripheral devises via the IP addresses that is

assigned).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of

endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of

ordinary skilled in the art to have control means perform the communication using the IP

addresses generated for the plurality of image processing function based on the control

task program. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to easily mange

and access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense of an

Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been

obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 4.

(5) regarding claim 5:

Ouchi further discloses, a control program embodied on a computer-readable

medium for implementing a method of controlling an image processing apparatus

having a plurality of image processing functions (**column 3, lines 5-11; note that multi-**

function information processing device is considered as the image processing

apparatus with plurality of image processing functions), comprising:

a controlling step for communicating with a plurality of appliance on the network

(**20, 23, figure 1**) and operating each of the plurality of image processing functions

(**column 3, lines 37-47; note that the multifunctional processing device has a**

control unit 20 in figure 1; also, note that the operation of the printing, scanning

and facsimile devices occur as communication gets established through the

modem 23 of figure 1) via a common bus (**7, figure 1; column 3 , lines 25-27; note**

that a transmission interface is connected to an external personal computer via a

connection cable), so that the control means executes communications between each

of the plurality of image processing functions and at least one of the plurality of

appliances (**column 3, lines 49-63; note that the control program i.e. part of the**

control unit executes facsimile function for controlling transmission and

reception of the data and also, executes copying function).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for

specifically teaching, an IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an

IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router and

generating an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions

based on the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for the

plurality of image processing functions.

However, Lam et al. disclose, generating an IP address unique to each of the

plurality of image processing functions on the basis of the acquired prefix information

(**paragraph [0036], lines 1-14; note that a unique IP address gets assigned for**

each device on the basis of the router); and by use of the IP address generated for

the plurality of image processing functions (**paragraph [0036], lines 1-9; note that each peripheral devices have a unique IP address**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address unique to each of the plurality of image processing functions based on the acquired prefix information and use of the IP address generated for the plurality of image processing functions. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense and complexity of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 1.

Ouchi and Lam et al. disclose most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching IP address generating step of establishing a connection to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router.

However, Thomson et al. disclose IP address generating means connected to an Ipv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said IPv6 router (**page 2, paragraph [0002] of Introduction; note that IPv6 defines an autoconfiguration mechanism of routers. Also, the stateless mechanism allows a host to generate its own address using a combination of locally available information provided by the routers. In addition to that, page 3 paragraph [0004] states that routes are expected to successfully pass the duplicate address detection procedure described in prior to assigning to an interface**).

Ouchi, Lam et al. and Thomson et al. are combinable because they are from the

same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a

person of ordinary skilled in the art to have an IP address generating means connected

to an IPv6 router on a network, for acquiring prefix information from said Ipv6 router.

The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been that IPv6 addresses lease to

an interface for a fixed length of time (page 3, paragraph [0002], lines 1-5) and IPv6

defines both stateful and stateless address autoconfiguration mechanism (page 2,

paragraph [0002], lines 1-5). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi,

Lam et al. with Thomson et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 5.

(6) regarding claim 6:

Ouchi further discloses, a control program embodied on a computer-readable

medium according to claim 3, wherein the controlling step involves executing the

plurality of image processing functions by executing, on a time-division basis using a

task switchover (**column 4, lines 9-15; note that control program has a timer to

switchover tasks on every 1/60 seconds**), control task programs corresponding

respectively to the plurality of image processing functions (**column 4, lines 15-29; note

that the control program, which is corresponding to a plurality of functions, on

the basis of the timer**), and taking as a unit the control task program corresponding to

an image processing function of the plurality of image processing functions (**column 5,

lines 27-40; note that control programs correspond to the plurality of functions of

the multi-functional processing device**).

Ouchi discloses most of the subject matter as described as above except for specifically teaching control means perform the communication using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing function based on the control task program.

However, Lam et al. disclose control means perform the communication using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing function based on the control task program (**paragraph [0036], lines 3-8; note that central processing unit communicates between each peripheral devises via the IP addresses that is assigned**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skilled in the art to have control means perform the communication using the IP addresses generated for the plurality of image processing function based on the control task program. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been to easily mange and access a multiplicity of multi-media peripheral devices without the expense of an Ethernet LAN system, (paragraph [0014], lines 1-6). Therefore, it would have been obvious to combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 6.

(7) regarding claim 7:

Ouchi further discloses, an apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is a composite image processing apparatus, and wherein at least a printer

function (**20, figure 1; column 3, lines 7-9**) and a scanner function are included in the

plurality of image-processing functions (**4, figure 1; column 3, lines 10-11**).

        (8) regarding claim 8:

        Ouchi discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for

specifically teaching, wherein the IP address generating means sends each generated

IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP address, and, if the IP address

is a duplicate, the IP address generating means generates an IP address different from

the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information.

        However, Lam et al. disclose wherein the IP address generating means sends

each generated IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP address

(**paragraph [0038], lines 4-16; note that the unique IP address of the peripherals**

gets stored as a simple look up table, if change or addition needs to be made, a

new IP gets generated), and, if the IP address is a duplicate (**paragraph [0038], lines**

8-9; note that if the IP address needs to be changed or added, a new IP gets

generated), the IP address generating means generates an IP address different from

the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information (**paragraph [0040], lines 3-**

22).

        Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of

endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of

ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address if there is duplication from the

previously generated address. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been

for efficiently access and utilize the devices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to

combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 8.

(9) regarding claim 9:

Ouchi further discloses, a method according to claim 1, wherein the apparatus is

a composite image processing apparatus, and wherein at least a printer function (**20,**

figure 1; column 3, lines 7-9) and a scanner function are included in the plurality of

image processing functions (**4, figure 1; column 3, lines 10-11**).

(10) regarding claim 10:

Ouchi discloses all of the subject matter as described as above except for

specifically teaching, wherein IP address generating step includes sending each the

generated IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP address, and if the

IP address is a duplicate, the IP address generating step includes generating an IP

address different from the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information.

However, Lam et al. disclose wherein IP address generating step includes

sending each the generated IP address to the router to check for duplication of the IP

address (**paragraph [0038], lines 4-16; note that the unique IP address of the**

peripherals gets stored as a simple look up table, if change or addition needs to

be made, a new IP gets generated), and if the IP address is a duplicate (**paragraph**

[0038], lines 8-9; note that if the IP address needs to be changed or added, a new

IP gets generated), the IP address generating step includes generating an IP address

different from the duplicate IP address based on the prefix information (**paragraph
[0040], lines 3-22**).

Ouchi and Lam et al. are combinable because they are from the same field of
endeavor. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of
ordinary skilled in the art to generate an IP address if there is duplication from the
previously generated address. The suggestion/motivation for doing so would have been
for efficiently access and utilize the devices. Therefore, it would have been obvious to
combine Ouchi with Lam et al. to obtain the invention as specified in claim 10.

Conclusion

6.   The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to
applicant's disclosure.

Ohara (US Publication Number 2003/0101236 A1) discloses a network system of
a plurality of network devices interconnected with each other through a network.

7.   Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communication from the
examiner should be directed to Hilina Kassa whose telephone number is (571) 270-
1676.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, David Moore could be reached at (571) 272- 7437. The fax phone number
for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published

applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status

information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For

more information about PAIR system, see http://pari-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have

questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business

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